

Firewood and the Emerald Ash Borer in Indiana DNR Campgrounds

If you plan to camp in Indiana this season, please help us control the spread of the emerald ash borer. You are the best weapon we have against this exotic beetle that has already killed 8-10 million ash trees in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

Why Should I Care about the Emerald Ash Borer?

- Ash trees make up about 6% of Indiana forests. There are an estimated 147 million ash trees in the state. Ash is a valuable wood for making baseball bats and tool handles. Many communities plant ash trees along streets and in neighborhoods-an estimated 1.5 million ash trees are in urban settings. Every single one of these trees is at risk if emerald ash borer moves into an area.
- In many campgrounds, ash trees provide valuable shade on hot summer days. For example, at Salamonie Lake in northern Indiana, ash trees provide about 30% of the tree cover in the modern campground.
- The range where ash trees grow stretches from Michigan to Texas to Florida. The estimated potential impact of the emerald ash borer is a loss of between 0.5% - 2% of the total leaf area and an economic loss of between \$20-60 billion.
- The adult beetle generally moves no more than 1/2 mile from where it emerges from under the bark of an ash tree. However, a piece of ash firewood with beetle larvae inside it can be transported hundreds of miles from its original location - and can result in a new infestation that can impact forests, campgrounds and local communities.

Why Are You Restricting All Hardwood Firewood and Not Just Ash?

- Although the emerald ash borer only lays eggs in the species of ash trees found in Indiana, we are restricting ALL hardwood firewood from quarantined counties.
- After wood is cut into firewood, it can be difficult to identify individual species. In addition, there are a number of harmful insect pests that live in OTHER types of wood. Restricting all hardwood firewood makes enforcement more uniform, helps to move you through the campground registration process more quickly and helps protect our forests and campground shade trees from other pests besides the emerald ash borer.

What Can I Do to Help?

- Don't move firewood.** If you live in the lower peninsula of Michigan or anywhere in Ohio or in Illinois, you cannot bring hardwood firewood across state lines to an Indiana state park, reservoir or state forest. You cannot move hardwood firewood from Indiana across state lines either.

If you live in a county in Indiana that has an emerald ash borer quarantine, you cannot bring firewood from that county to any Indiana state park, reservoir, or state forest. Indiana counties with quarantines currently include Steuben, LaGrange, Adams, Randolph, Huntington, Hamilton, Marion, White, Porter, DeKalb, Allen and St. Joseph.

Portrait of a Killer (of Ash Trees!)

Color: Bright metallic green.

Shape: Rounded belly and flat back.

Size: 1/3 to 1/2 inches long and 1/16th inch wide; 3 or 4 can fit on a penny.

Origin: Native range includes Mongolia, North and South Korea, Japan and northern China. Believed to have been moved to the United States in wood shipping crates made of ash trees native to Asia.

Life Cycle:

- Adults mate and lays up to 75 eggs under the bark of the ash tree between May-July. They generally move no more than one-half mile to find a mate and lay eggs.
- Eggs hatch into worm-like larvae that feed on the vascular tissue (living layer) of the tree. This living layer of the tree is how water and food move from the roots to the leaves. When emerald ash borer larvae invade, this layer can be destroyed and the tree dies in 1-3 years.
- Larvae pupate and spend the winter under the bark of the tree. Ash trees that die and are cut up for firewood may have emerald ash borer pupae inside, and taking that wood to a campground transports the insect to a whole new location.
- In spring, the adults emerge, leaving D-shaped exit holes. They mate and lay eggs and the cycle begins again.



- **Burn all of your firewood when you camp.** Do not leave it for other campers, regardless of where your wood came from or what type of wood it is.
- **Check for quarantine changes before you pack the camper.** If new counties are quarantined, firewood cannot be brought to our state parks, reservoirs or state forests from these counties. You can view updated maps of quarantined areas at <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/map.cfm>.
- **Monitor your ash trees at home.** If you have ash trees in your yard, keep an eye on them. You can find out what to look for by visiting www.emeraldashborer.info. If you discover emerald ash borer larvae or adults, contact IDNR's exotics hotline at 1-866-663-9684).

How You Can Help

- **Don't move firewood.**
- **Burn all of your firewood when you camp no matter where it came from.**
- **Know if your county has a quarantine.**
- **Monitor your ash trees at home.**

What If I Live in an Indiana County with a Quarantine, But Bought My Firewood Elsewhere?

If you live in an Indiana county with a quarantine, but bought your firewood in an Indiana county with NO quarantine you can bring it into the campground. We encourage you to bring along a receipt or some other proof that you obtained the wood in a county with no quarantine. We will accept your word, and we hope you will be honest. All it takes is one piece of firewood with a few unseen emerald ash borers inside it to start a new infestation in your favorite campground. Don't risk being the person responsible for spreading this insect.

You cannot bring firewood from Illinois, Ohio or Michigan across state lines into Indiana. You cannot take your firewood from Indiana across state lines to campgrounds, either. You can purchase firewood in a non-quarantined Indiana county for use at an Indiana state park, reservoir or state forest campground.

What is the DNR Doing to Control this Insect?

- Our gate attendants will require anyone who brings firewood from a quarantined area to leave it at our gate. We will remove the firewood and burn it each day to eliminate any chance that emerald ash borers might emerge and survive.
- We will be checking empty campsites for leftover firewood, and it will be removed and burned.
- Moving firewood from anywhere in Ohio, Illinois or the lower peninsula of Michigan into Indiana (or vice versa) is a violation of federal law. Moving firewood from quarantined areas in Indiana is a violation of state law. Officers from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) visit our campgrounds to watch for and remove firewood brought from quarantined areas.
- We will ensure that our concession vendors sell only firewood from non-quarantined areas.
- Surveys are being conducted in state park, reservoir and state forest properties to determine if this insect has already spread beyond the existing quarantined counties. It can take several years for emerald ash borer infestations to become evident, and these surveys may serve as an early warning system that helps us control the spread of this insect.
- Because the insect is so new to North America, there are no proven control measures in place other than controlling the movement of potentially-infested lumber and firewood. Research is being conducted at universities and by state entomology departments to evaluate possible chemical or other control measures.

Want to Know More about the Emerald Ash Borer?

Visit www.emeraldashborer.info.

Remember, you are the best weapon we have against this exotic beetle that has already killed 8-10 million ash trees in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Illinois. Thanks for your help in controlling its movement.

DNR

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The mission of Indiana's Division of State Parks * Reservoirs is to manage & interpret our properties' unique natural, wildlife, & cultural resources using the principles of multiple use & preservation, while sustaining the integrity of these resources for current & future generations.